GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3175
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
DEMARCATION OF LAND BOUNDARY
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Joint Working Group of Indo-Bangladesh was held in Delhi in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of such meetings held during 1998 and 1999 and the outcome of each of the meetings;

(d) the number of survey teams set-up for the working of completion of demarcation of land boundary till January 1, 1997 and the number of such teams increased till date;

(e) whether the increase in number of survey teams have helped the Government in demarcation of land boundary;

(f) if so, the extent to which they have helped in this regard; and (g) the achievements made so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) The third meeting of the India - Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) was held in New Delhi in 1997. The fifth meeting of the JWG was held in August 1998.No JWG meeting was held in 1999. The JWG meetings discussed various issues related to border management including, inter alia, security, cross border movements, border demarcation and visa regime, etc. Both sides reiterated their resolve to ensure co-operation between the two governments and not to allow their territories to be used for activities prejudicial to the other`s interests.

(d) to (g) Both countries had deployed one survey team each on the India - Bangladesh boundary in West Bengal sector, Meghalaya sector, Assam sector and Tripura sector till January, 1997. In the West Bengal sector, the number of survey teams was increased in the 1997-98 field season to expedite the work of boundary demarcation. Survey officials of India and Bangladesh have completed joint demarcation of the India -Bangladesh boundary excepting a length of about 6.5 km.The Government of India propose to complete the task of joint demarcation of the boundary with Bangladesh with the co-operation of the concerned State Governments.